

Remarks

The Office Action mailed September 18, 2007, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-20, 22-30, and 32 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 13-15, 17-20, 24-26, and 28-30 stand rejected. Claims 4, 5, 10-12, 16, 21-23, 27, 31, and 32 stand objected to. Claims 10, 12, 21, and 31 have been cancelled.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-9, 15, 25, 26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey (U.S. Pat. No. 6,275,038) ("Harvey") in view of Gur et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,627,907) ("Gur") is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 has been cancelled and Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former Claim 10. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Harvey in view of Gur.

Claims 2, 3, and 6-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, and 6-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2, 3, and 6-9 likewise are patentable over Harvey in view of Gur.

Claim 21 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 has been cancelled and Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of former Claim 21. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted as patentable over Harvey in view of Gur.

Claim 15 depends from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claim 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 15 likewise is patentable over Harvey in view of Gur.

Claim 31 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 31 has been cancelled and Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of former

Claim 31. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 25 is submitted as patentable over Harvey in view of Gur.

Claims 26 and 28-30 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 25. When the recitations of Claims 26 and 28-30 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 26 and 28-30 likewise are patentable over Harvey in view of Gur.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-9, 15, 25, 26, and 28-30 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey in view of Dean et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,445,182) ("Dean") is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 has been cancelled and Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of former Claim 21. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted as patentable over Harvey in view of Dean.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claim 13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 14, 15, 17-20, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey and Dean, and further in view of Gur is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 has been cancelled and Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of former Claim 21. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted as patentable over Harvey and Dean in view of Gur.

Claims 14, 15, 17-20, and 24 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14, 15, 17-20, and 24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 14, 15, 17-20, and 24 likewise are patentable over Harvey and Dean in view of Gur.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the Section 103 rejection of Claims 14, 15, 17-20, and 24 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J.A. Leinauer", is written over a horizontal line.

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